

Highlands School Board Meeting Highlights

April 16, 2012 School Board Meeting

NOTE: This Board Highlights document includes the actions of the School Board Meeting. It is not meant to be an exact reflection of the meeting's minutes.

AGENDA

ROLL CALL - Eight members present. **Mr. Ron Lang** was absent.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – **Mr. Jon Rupert** reported that the Highlands Education Association sent a letter to the Board rejecting the proposal that HEA members accept a wage freeze for the upcoming fiscal year.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Mr. Andrew McBurney (HHS- Senior) reported the following:

- Students in **Mr. John Malobicky's** engineering course were named Grand Champions of the 2012 BotsIQ competition held at Westmoreland County Community College this past weekend. This is the third year students competed.
- Several High School classes joined the Music Department in a Titanic 100th Anniversary Commemorative Concert on Friday, April 13. Attendees were treated to professional-quality music from the band and the Madrigals singing group. In addition, history, art, physics, foods and tech Ed classes also participated in a cross-curricular study of the ship, its time and context. At a pre-concert reception in the auditorium lobby, many adults, students, and young children browsed the art exhibits by **Mrs. Teresa Emeloff's** and **Mrs. Renae Yoder's** art students, along with some displays from **Mrs. Michelle Dickerson's** history class, **Mr. John Malobicky's** physics class, and **Mr. Mike Santucci's** 3D CADD class. **Mr. Romy Nitowski's** Professional Foods class studied the various items on the Titanic's menu and also catered the reception. Some of the history students also dressed as if they were passengers on the Titanic, and interacted with guests at the reception. A dedication of the COLOR mural that was painted during the band concert last spring by Pittsburgh artist **Mr. Michael Fratangelo** was also held prior to the concert.
- The Prom will have a Greek theme this year.
- Junior students are engaged in the PSSA Writing Exams this week. Good luck, Juniors!

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Joseph Latess reported the following:

- Highlands Board and Administration continue to work diligently through the budgetary process. We have reduced the shortfall from more than \$2 million to about \$800,000 at this point. We will continue to work. It is important for parents, residents, taxpayers and others to contact legislators and urge them to reevaluate cyber and charter school funding.
- Dr. Latess recognized **Kyla Kelley**, a seventh-grade student at Highlands Middle School for winning the local American Legion essay competition. Kyla will move on to the regional level of the writing contest. Good luck, Kyla! To view Kyla's essay in full, go to www.goldenrams.com and click on "HMS Student Wins Essay Contest" under the Headlines section.

ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Patrick Graczyk reported the following:

- Title I figures have not yet been received. We are expecting final budget number by the end of April.
- Title I will host a camp this summer for parents of students in grades K through Five. If you are interested, please contact your building principal or Title I representative. Funding for the trip is provided through Title I and not by the district.
- **Mr. Graczyk, Mr. Love and Mrs. Thimons** reviewed information regarding Chapter 4 requirements for programs.

AGENDA ITEMS

The Board unanimously approved the following items:

CAFETERIA – Mr. Hanford, Mr. Krzton

- The Cafeteria Fund Financial Report for March 2012, as submitted.
- The payment of Cafeteria Fund bills, as submitted.

April 2012 to be paid	\$75,592.30
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STUDENT ACTIVITIES – Mrs. Thimons, Mr. Love

- **Mrs. Fox** reported that the Highlands Middle School production “Honk, Jr.” was a great success and was very impressive to audiences. The students performed well and appeared professional.
- The High School Titanic commemoration event was a great collaboration of projects and students.

INSTRUCTION – Mr. Love, Mrs. Thimons

- The 2012-2013 School Calendar, as submitted, with the exception of the month of November. Mr. Masarik proposed that a change be made regarding the week of Parent Teacher Conferences.
- The following Make-up Days for the 2012-2013 school year:
 - January 21, 2013 – Make-up Day 1
 - February 18, 2013 – Make-up Day 2
 - March 27, 2013 – Make-up Day 3
 - March 28, 2013 – Make-up Day 5
 - April 1, 2013 – Make-up Day 4

- The 2012-2013 Designated School Holidays, as submitted.

TRANSPORTATION – Mr. Masarik, Mr. Hanford

- **Mr. Masarik** reported that Highlands is still awaiting final word from PennDOT regarding hazardous routes.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Lang, Mrs. Fox

- The use of facilities, as submitted.

- Adding Air Conditioner option to Grandview Upper Elementary to be included in the Act 39 Project with TRANE at a cost of \$690,393.

- **Mr. Love, Mr. Masarik and Mr. Hanford** voted "NO".

- Including estimated funds for the Grandview Upper Elementary Wall and Steps, and Fairmount Primary Center Roof to the final bond issue amount. FYI – Total Bond Issue Amount is about \$6 million dollars.

- **Mr. Love** voted "NO".

- Authorizing District to execute a letter of intent to enter into ACT 39 contract with TRANE, however, if District should not execute ACT 39 Agreement, then District agrees to pay TRANE \$900,000 for initial order of material. (Total TRANE contract \$5,525,530)

- **Mr. Love** voted "NO".

- Approving payment for 12th R.E.C. for completion of work on Administrative Center at Highlands High School project.

PERSONNEL – Mrs. Fox, Mr. Miles

- The 2011-2012 Substitute Nurse Call List, as submitted. As per Board Policy #405 (Pre-Employment Drug Test, #514, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Criminal Record Check).

- The following requests for Leave of Absence, in accordance with Board/HEA Collective Bargaining Agreement:

A. Kristy L. Frisco

Biology Teacher

High School

Family and Medical Leave of Absence

April 19, 2012 through June 7, 2012

B. Mary Beth Carrarini

Guidance Counselor

High School

Family and Medical Leave of Absence

Effective May 8, 2012

C. Joel Helgert

Custodian

Extended Leave of Absence through June 15, 2012.

- Ratifying the change of assignment of **Debbie Brukner** to 5 Hour Cook for the Heights Early Childhood Center, effective February 24, 2012.

- The hiring of the following Classified Employees, in accordance with Board Policy #504 (Pre-Employment Drug Test), #515, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check:

A. Caitlin Watt – Ratify

Personal Aide - Replacement

Fawn Primary Center

Effective March 28, 2012

B. Erin Shoemaker – Ratify
Personal Aide - Replacement
Fawn Primary Center
Effective April 11, 2012

- Ratifying the resignation of **Kathleen Anuszek**, Personal Aide, Grandview Upper Elementary effective April 13, 2012.
- The retirement of **Donna J. Natskakula**, 7-hour Cook, High School effective June 7, 2012.
- The Board voted to **TABLE** the motion to approve a 4-Day work week for Administrators and 12 month secretaries to begin Monday, June 18, 2012 through Friday, August 10, 2012.

FINANCE/TAX – Mr. Miles, Mrs. Thimons

- The Treasurer’s Report for February 2012, as submitted and subject to audit.
- Tax Refunds for April 2012 in the amount of \$695.95, as submitted.
- The payment of General Fund bills, as submitted.

April 2012 to be ratified	\$ 840,779.36
December 2011 to be paid	\$ <u>636,042.76</u>
TOTAL	\$1,476,822.12

- The Audit Report, as submitted.
- The proposed 2012-2013 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget, as presented. The Budget totals \$3,807,403. There is no increase in the total district allocation. The Highlands School District’s expected contribution to the AIU Program of Services budget is \$22,182.60.
- The appointment of Janney Montgomery Scott as Investment Banker to issue \$6 million dollar Bond Issue. (Total not to exceed \$6 million dollars)
Mr. Love voted "NO".
- The appointment of Christopher Brewer as Bond Counselor for Bond Issue at a fee of \$13,500.
Mr. Love voted "NO".
- The Extended Deadline Early Retirement Agreement, as submitted.
- The re-bidding of the Administrative Center at no minimum bid.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH –Mrs. Fox, Mr. Krzton

9.1 Community Conversations

Join Highlands School District Superintendent **Dr. Joseph Latess** for "**Community Conversations**" at Heights Early Childhood Center on Thursday, April 19 at 9 a.m. The meeting will feature highlights from Heights ECC with Principal **Ian Miller**, current events and highlights of the school district and discussion time with Dr. Latess for concerned district residents. RSVP is appreciated by calling Misty Chybrzynski at 724.226.2400 x250 or by e-mail to mchybrzynski@goldenrams.com.

"Highlands Gives Back"

Highlands School District Music Department presents the Highlands Alumni Big Band at its annual "**Highlands Gives Back**" Concert beginning at 7 PM on Friday, April 27 at Highlands Middle School. The event will raise funds and awareness for several local charities. The program will consist of songs by an Alumni Big Band, whose members include retired Band Director Mr. Louis Pisani, alumni Louis Pisani Jr., Andy Sirota, Fran Balog, Dan Wagner, Rick Matt, Tom Ockree, Lee Lynn, Matt Beresik, Bob Riddle, Paul Walker, Bill Tillman, Jon Love, Victor Garzotto, Rick Lang, Erich Lascek, Renee Shreffler, and friends of the group Steve Smietana, Scott Slezak, and Andy Gregory. Donations of cash, non-perishable food items, or new children's socks and underwear will be accepted as admission to the concert. All donations will benefit the AVAC Food Bank, Highlands Area Meals on Wheels, and the Alle-Kiski Area Hope Center.

Sexting Conference

Alle-Kiski Health Foundation will be hosting a Sexting Conference at Lower Burrell High School from 6:30 to 8 PM on Wednesday, April 18, 2012. Contact the AKHF for more information or for a copy of the presentation, expected to be released after June 1 (fee for copy may apply, but conference is free).

FORBES ROAD CTC – Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Thimons

- Summer Camps will begin soon. Camps cost \$25 per student and are offered in a variety of courses and programs. Contact Forbes Road CTC for more information or to register.
- Graduation ceremony will be held on May 22 at 7 PM.

PSBA/NSBA – Mr. Love

Residents, board members, administrators and teachers are urged to contact legislators by the end of the month and request that they reverse the moratorium proposed by Governor Corbett that is affecting PlanCON. The state has had a long-standing obligation to assist schools in building.

POLICY – Mr. Krzton, Mr. Masarik, Mr. Miles

Mr. Krzton announced that he will be heading a 4-person committee to begin drafting and proposing a district plan for building usage.

ATHLETICS – Mr. Lang, Mr. Masarik, Mr. Hanford

- The Athletic Fund Financial Report for March 2012, as submitted.
- The hiring of the following athletic personnel, in accordance with Board Policy #404 (Pre-Employment Drug Test, #414, Act 34, Act 151, and FBI Record Check (Salary as per Board/HEA Collective Bargaining Agreement,) and/or Board Policy #916.1:

Name	Position
Stocynski, Tyler	Varsity Basketball Coach

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Mrs. Beale** notified the audience that the Board would meet for an executive session involving two personnel matters following the meeting.

2012 Highlands School Board Members

Debbie Beale - President

Carrie Fox - Vice President

Laura Thimons

Jonathon Love

Ron Lang

William Krzton

Eric Miles

Michael Masarik

Ryan Hanford